

**Early Childhood Advisory Council
September 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Call to order.....

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:05 am on September 18, 2014 at KHEAA in Frankfort, Ky.

Roll Call.....

The following members were present: Chair Rick Hulefeld, Tom Burch, Marilyn Coffey, Melissa Hardison for Paula Goff, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Tracy Haddix, Tommy Floyd for Terry Holliday, Amy Hood, Mary Beth Jackson, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Kevin Nix, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, Ruth Ann Shepherd, June Widman, Rachel Yarbrough, and Tom Zawacki. The following members were absent: Tom Buford, Ben Cundiff, Daphne Hosinski, and Bill Scott.

Introduction of Staff and New Member.....

Rick Hulefeld introduced new staff member, Rachel Yarbrough. Terry Tolan introduced staff in GOEC and announced that she is now fully staffed.

Approval of Minutes, September 2014.....

On motion of Representative Tom Burch, second by Beth Jurek, the minutes of the June 2014 ECAC meeting were approved as presented.

Workgroup Reports.....

Community Collaboration.....

Marilyn Coffey presented information about how they are beginning to integrate Race to the top into CECC RFAs. Amanda Flanary was asked to give a brief update on the CECCs. There were 80 applications representing 115 counties. There were 5 counties that did not reapply; however, they were still actively engaged and staff are doing outreach to build their future capacity.. The next steps for Community Collaboration are to enhance the website, offer webinars and schedule meetings that will help get more information out to the CECC's.

Public Awareness.....

Cindy Heine reported that public awareness had been split in two - public awareness and the communication with families. Cindy's goal is to create a public that supports policy decisions, and understand the importance of the growth of children. The next step is to refine key messages a variety of audiences. Families need to know the importance of the STARS system and why it's beneficial. She would like to see elected leaders be more knowledgeable about the needs of young children. Cindy asked ECAC members to be vocal advocates for our work.

Data.....

Brigitte Ramsey reported on how the data workgroup was charged with developing early childhood. The workgroup recently met and discussed previous policy questions and possible future policy questions. Brigitte explained that the workgroup drafted a set of policy questions and possible indicators. The data workgroup is going to develop subgroups to talk about policy questions and has invited other interested parties to join the subgroups.

Professional Development.....

Amy Hood and Anna Shepherd reported on the professional development workgroup. They explained how the goals for the professional development committee are; highly qualified professionals, high quality content, effective delivery, accessible, and responsive to changing environments. To increase the knowledge and qualifications of early learning and development professionals has been a KIDS NOW focus since the early days of the initiative and research certainly supports this strategy. The next steps are to plan October and November dates with a 90 day timeline to review and revise, to increase access to high priority professional learning sessions using a variety of delivery methods.

STARS.....

Tracy Haddix reported that this workgroup has been meeting regularly. The STARS workgroup is starting to look at grids for a hybrid system for quality centers. They are trying to merge the old system with the new. Tracy explained that it is important to be careful and not overlook the lesson of observation. The next steps for this workgroup will be to finalize standards and what evidence will be collected. A pilot is still planned for 2015.

Supporting Families

Rick Hulefeld reported that the goal of this workgroup is to find the strengths of families. There are 5 ways to do this: STARS, professional development, CECC's, monthly messages, and born learning academies. Rick explained the importance of building on the strengths of the families

and lowering their stress levels. The next steps are to take powerful presentations to many decision makers and superintendents.

KY All STARS update.....

Joe Roberts reports the KY All STARS is on the right track with no major issues. The message and objectives have been simplified so that everyone can understand the process. Joe states that they are moving in the right direction.

CCAP Update.....

Beth Jurek gave a CCAP Update. She states that the CCAP freeze has been lifted. They have pushed the threshold up to 140 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. (Previously, this was dropped to 100% FPL.) Last month there was an average of 42,000 kids served per month. They are averaging around 800 more kids per week. Some ECAC members raised concern about messaging and communication around income eligibility for the CCAP program, especially to use the 2011 FPL in determining eligibility..

Executive Director's Report.....

Terry Tolan reported that there is not a venue large enough to host the Ready Kids Conference in 2015. We will be working with Regional Training Centers and will have 5-6 regional conferences for 2015. We do have a venue confirmed for 2016. Terry announced that GOEC will apply for a Federal Preschool Expansion grant. Cindy Heine will be the grant leader. The grant has two potential components, serving more children in public preschool and improving quality of existing preschools and classrooms.

Conclusion and Adjourn.....

Rick Hulefeld adjourned the meeting at 12:01pm. The next meeting of the ECAC will be December 18, 2014 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.